

Appln. No.: Not Yet Assigned
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- 1(Currently Amended). A bearing shell comprising:
a backing material of metal, ~~in particular of steel~~, which is coated at least with a plain bearing material, and including ~~characterized in that~~ at least one oil-conveying groove $[(6)]$ stamped into the rear of the backing material $[(2)]$.
- 2(Currently Amended). A bearing shell according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the groove $[(6)]$ extends from a bearing shell end over a part $[(8)]$ of the outer circumference of the bearing shell $[(1)]$.
- 3(Currently Amended). A bearing shell according to claim 1, ~~or claim 2,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the groove $[(6)]$ extends in the circumferential direction.
- 4(Currently Amended). A bearing shell according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the groove $[(6)]$ opens into a the parting face $[(4a)]$ of the bearing shell $[(1)]$.
- 5(Currently Amended). A bearing shell according to claim $[(s)]$ 1 ~~to 4,~~ ~~characterized in that the,~~ wherein the groove $[(6)]$ extends over a circumferential angle $[(8)]$ of $[(?)]\leq 120^{\circ}$.
- 6(Currently Amended). A bearing shell according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the groove $[(6)]$ extends over a circumferential angle $[(8)]$ of $[(?)]\leq 90^{\circ}$.
- 7(Currently Amended). A bearing shell according to claim $[(s)]$ 1 ~~to 6,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the groove ~~(6)~~ exhibits its has a maximum depth T_{max} in the area of the a parting face $[(4a)]$ and where ~~in that~~ depth T reduces continuously along the groove $[(6)]$ until $T=0$.
- 8(Currently Amended). A bearing shell according to claim 7, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the depth T_{max} is $[(?)]\leq 0.8 D$, where $[(in)]$ D is the thickness of the backing material $[(2)]$.

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9(Currently Amended). A bearing shell according to claim 1, wherein ~~claims 1 to 8,~~
~~characterized in that the plain bearing material (3) consists of~~ is selected from a group
consisting essentially of an Al alloy [[or]] and a sintered bronze.

10(Currently Amended). A bearing having two bearing shells (1) ~~according to any~~
~~one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that each comprising a backing material of metal~~
which is coated at least with a plain bearing material, and including at least one oil-
conveying groove stamped into the rear of the backing material wherein the two bearings
shells ~~[[(1)]]~~ are arranged in such a way that ~~[[the]]~~ parting faces of the two bearing shells
[[(4a)]] into which the grooves ~~[[(6)]]~~ open lie against one another.

11(Cancelled).

12(Currently Amended). A method of producing bearing shells, comprising having
~~the following method steps:~~

- ~~production~~ preparing of a strip of composite material by coating one side
of a metallic backing material with at least one plain bearing material,
- stamping ~~[[of]]~~ grooves into the bare backing material of the strip,
- cutting off of portions of material,
- shaping ~~[[of]]~~ the cut portions of material into bearing shells, and
- internal machining of the bearing shells to remove material, ~~which is~~
~~associated with removal of material.~~

13(Currently Amended). A method according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the grooves are stamped ~~[[in]]~~ perpendicular to ~~[[the]]~~ a direction of feed of the
strip.

14(Currently Amended). A method according to claim ~~12 or claim~~ 13, wherein the
~~characterized in that~~ grooves are stamped ~~[[in]]~~ with a continuously reducing groove
depth T.

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15(Currently Amended). A method according to claim[[s]] 12 ~~[[to 14]]~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a surplus of the plain bearing material is applied to the backing material ~~with an excessive amount of surplus~~ and ~~in that~~ the bearing material is thereafter reduced to its final thickness during the internal machining of the bearing shell.

16(Currently Amended). A method according to claim[[s]] 12 ~~to 15~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ at least one compensating stamping is made ~~introduced in each case~~ on the opposite side of the strip from the groove.

17(Currently Amended). A method according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the compensating stamping is ~~introduced~~ made in the area of the parting line.

18(Currently Amended). A method according to claim 16 ~~or claim 17~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a wedge-shaped groove is stamped in as the compensating stamping.